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10 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director, OSA

SUBJECT : OSA Historian

During the past few years in OSA I have engaged in several exercises which would take me back through the files to the days of AQUATONE. Normally, one would hope that key documents would be gathered together in one file to facilitate the review of the decision-making days of old. In the many ventures I have taken into bygone days I have experienced a great deal of frustration in attempting to assimilate papers which would reflect what went on during those days. [redacted] as you are aware, on his own began an historical summary of all of our projects based on some papers and a good deal of memories. It is excusable to think that OSA's history is in such plight when one remembers that the AQUATONE Project was geared not to last any longer than 18 months. That program is now over 9 years old. Memories are growing weaker, yet our bad habits regarding documentation and historical summaries prevail. Is it beyond conception that OSA might borrow from the DDI some librarian/historian character to peruse our files and attempt to reconstruct the vital points and milestones of each program in which we are engaged? Such summaries would not only be a substantial benefit at this time, but like wine will age in value. Periodic updating, of course, will be necessary. The above is a thought for the day at no cost to the consumer.

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JOHN N. McMAHON

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